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CIA Man Found Dead In 32d Street Home; Note Implies Suicide

CPYRGHT

**Administrative Post
Paid Him Over \$10,000
A Year; Police Cautious**

An administrative official of the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency was found dead today in his fashionable Georgetown home.

The body of James S. Kronthal, 41, of 1662 Thirty-second street N.W. was found about 10:30 a.m., but it was nearly 1 p.m. before homicide police, exercising unusual caution, would give out details.

Lt. Lawrence Hartnett of the homicide squad said Mr. Kronthal's body was stretched fully clothed except for a coat on a bed in the larger of two second-floor bedrooms.

Note Implies Suicide.

On a bed stand police found an empty clear-glass vial and a page-long, handwritten note "indicating likely suicide," Lt. Hartnett said. He refused to divulge the note's contents a standard police practice.

A spokesman for the CIA said only that Mr. Kronthal was employed in an "administrative capacity." He refused to say whether it involved the handling of matter involving the national security. His salary was more than \$10,000 a year.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald went to the home to assist in the investigation. He refused to comment on the cause of death pending an autopsy this afternoon.

Found by Other CIA Men.

Two other employes of CIA, Gould Cassal, 43, of 3445 Thirty-eighth street N.W., and McGregor Gray, 31, of 4501 Walsh street, Chevy Chase, Md., discovered the body after Mr. Kronthal failed to report to his office.

An hour earlier, a maid had begun her work downstairs, unaware Mr. Kronthal was dead.

One policeman said death apparently occurred about 12 hours before the body was found. There were no marks of violence.

Agency Works With Police.

The CIA was working closely with the police in the investigation.

Following close-lipped practice, the CIA revealed little about Mr. Kronthal. He had worked at the agency "two or three years."

A native of Deal, N. J., he was born August 21, 1912. He was graduated from Yale University in 1934 and obtained a degree from Harvard University in 1941.

Police said he had relatives living outside the city, but none in this vicinity.